

# VIETNAM COURIER

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SUPPLEMENT

## MEMORANDUM

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 14TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE  
1954 GENEVA AGREEMENTS ON VIET NAM



President HO CHI MINH

## DIEN BIEN PHU — GENEVA

### A LONG ROAD...

**D**IEN BIEN PHU. Geneva. Fourteen years have elapsed. The Vietnamese people can, not without legitimate pride, look back upon the road they have travelled.

Hardly had a decisive, nay mortal, blow been dealt to old colonialism when they had to face an even more ferocious, perfidious, and clearly more powerful neo-colonialism. For 14 years, the Vietnamese people have not failed in their task: to all American designs and attempts, they have opposed stubborn and

victorious resistance. Yankee neo-colonialism has brought into play all kinds of skills, stratagems, weapons, including those prohibited by international law, sent to Viet Nam its best generals, politicians, counter-insurgency and repression experts; all kinds of modern techniques, and the most barbarous methods and means have been used—all to no avail.

In order to fully appreciate the Vietnamese people's victories, one must go back to the dark days of the first years under the Dien region.

(Continued page 2)

## South Viet Nam

- ★ In 30 Minutes, the P.L.A.F. Put out of Action 200 G.I.s, Destroyed or Damaged 22 Aircraft, 25 Armoured Cars and 7 Cannons at Dau Tieng.
- ★ Traung Bang Region: 720 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded, 37 Vehicles Destroyed, About 100 Firearms Seized.
- ★ 1,160 Enemy Troops Put out of Action North of Quang Tri Province and West of Thua Thien Province.
- ★ 81 Aircraft Destroyed or Damaged after 3 P.L.A.F. Shellings of Da Nang and Nuec Man Airfields.

Page 8

## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S APPEAL

ON THE OCCASION OF JULY 20

Follow countrymen and fighters throughout the country!

**F**OURTEEN years ago, following the Geneva Agreements were signed which recognized the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people. In July 1954, our people would have our country freed from being completely independent, after peaceful and reunified, and the North and the South reunited under the same roof, had it not been for the brazen sabotage of the accords by the bellicose U.S. imperialists, who broke their own promise. They created traitorous puppet regimes and launched a war of aggression in the southern part of our country. But they have met with an extremely heroic resistance from our compatriots and fighters in the South and have been suffering heavy failures. In an attempt to get out of their passing position and pre-empt in South Viet Nam, they have been frenziedly bombing and shelling North Viet Nam for more than three years now. They have been undermining the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos and continually threatening and provoking the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The aggressive war waged by the United States in our country is one of the most brutal in human history. The U.S. aggressors have been warring the hope of subduing our people with an army more than one million strong, including over 500,000 U.S. troops and with the power of modern weapons. The heavy reality of life has turned out to be a dire disappointment for them. Our valiant southern compatriots and fighters, the heroic Vietnamese people as a whole, have resolutely stood up, millions like one, and have been fighting with almost incredible heroism, frustrating all enemy military and political schemes, and winning greater and greater victories.

Since early spring 1968, the war of resistance in South Viet Nam has been pushed up to a new phase: our southern compatriots and fighters have staged waves of widespread attacks and simultaneous uprisings in the towns and cities, which have been highlighted by many glorious exploits, and have thrown into a turmoil the United States and produced a state of civil war. The founding of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was a great success creditable to the line of nation-wide unity in the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation which has shed a stronger light on the nature of the U.S. and its lackey aggressors and traitors, and further increased their isolation. In North Viet Nam, more than 3,000 aircraft of the U.S. aggressors have been shot down. That "Both the South and the North are fighting well." The U.S. imperialists are suffering ever bigger setbacks and will not escape complete failure.

But with the U.S. aggressors, what is lost in the bow will come out in the fletcher. In South Viet Nam, they continue to intensify the war, with victory savage attacks on the towns and cities, and devastating raids on many rural areas; at the same time, they carry on frantic bombardments against the southern provinces of North Viet Nam.

At the Paris conversations, in face of our serious attitude and just stand, they keep demanding "reciprocity" (shameless and completely unreasonable manner. Obviously the U.S. imperialists still are unwilling to give up their criminal war of aggression, and still want to hold on to the line, in an attempt to prolong the partition of our country.

In face of this grave situation, the people throughout our country must persevere with

stiffer determination to, and push up, their war of resistance against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation. For independence and freedom, our 31 million fellow-countrymen will resolutely overcome all hardships and make sacrifices, with their minds made up to fight and to win. The U.S. aggressors are being driven into a tighter corner, and are sustaining ever heavier setbacks, and are at the end of their tether. The armed forces and people throughout our country are holding the initiative and are keeping up the offensive, and the harder they fight, the bigger their victories.

Our southern compatriots and fighters, closely and broadly united under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation, will certainly fight with still more zeal and win yet more considerable successes.

Our compatriots and fighters in the North must unceasingly increase their vigilance, fight heroically, step up their emulation in production, defend the war of destruction by the enemy, stand ready to thwart all his new escalations, and give wholehearted assistance to the heroic South, thus fulfilling the obligations of the great rear towards the great front.

South and North of one mind, our entire people are resolved to fight, resolutely to defeat the U.S. aggressors, liberate the South, peaceful reunification of the country.

Our people cherish peace, but only in real independence and freedom can genuine peace be established. Independence must and clear: when the U.S. imperialists put an end to their war of aggression against our country, cease their bombing and shelling of North Viet Nam, withdraw all the U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and leave our people to settle themselves their internal affairs, peace will be restored immediately. That is the aspiration of our people, and also the desire of progressive people in the United States, and of peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world. The only way to restore peace is to send home all the troops of the United States and of its satellites Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!

Dear fellow-countrymen and fighters,

**W**E, Vietnamese people, are fighting the greatest war of resistance in our history. For the independence and freedom of our homeland, in the interests of the socialist camp, the oppressed nations and of the whole progressive mankind, we are fighting and defeating the imperialist war. Our homeland is the scene of an all-out fight between justice and injustice, between civilization and brutality. The peoples of the fraternal socialist countries and progressive people all over the world are daily following the developments in Viet Nam, with deep admiration for our compatriots and fighters. On behalf of the Vietnamese people, I take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to the fraternal socialist countries and to all our friends in the free continents, for their wholehearted assistance to our people in their sacred resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation.

Our people are very heroic. Our line is very sound. We have justice on our side. We have a staunch and strong resolve to fight and to win. We have the invincible might of nation-wide unity and enjoy the sympathetic support of the whole progressive mankind.

The U.S. imperialists will surely be defeated!

Our people will surely be victorious!

Fellow-countrymen and fighters throughout the country, march forward with more ardor!







## LAWYERS

### S. AGGRESSION

# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## Military Operations

### DONG HA AND HIGHWAY No 9

On July 2, two U.S. battalions were intercepted at Lai An, 11 km north of Dong Ha; about 100 Marines killed or wounded. The survivors fled under an adverse artillery fire; 138 Yankees put out of action and 4 M-41 tanks burnt.

On July 9, 100 U.S. Marines were killed or wounded and 8 tanks destroyed at 3 km from Con Tien base, near the demarcation line.

On July 11, a platoon of U.S. Marines and 100 G.I.s were put out of action in several engagements west of Highway No 9, between Tan Lam and Rao Quan.

On July 13, 2 tanks were destroyed and 1 U.S. Marine company wiped out on its way to Rao Quan from Hill 710 which defended the western flank of an outpost built near Ca Lu, a substitute for Khe Sanh base just evacuated.

To sum up, in Dong Ha region and along Highway No 9, from July 7 to 13, at least 500 Marines were killed or wounded and 7 M-41 tanks destroyed or burnt.

### HUE AREA

FROM July 3 to 8, the guerrillas and local troops of the highland west of Thua Thien province (with Hoi An province capital) hummed at the enemy forces operating in this locality.

South of Thua Thien, the U.S. and puppet troops took nearly 200 casualties and had 3 choppers downed in many engagements with the P.L.A.F. In the first ten days of July, the people's forces north of the province put out of action 300 enemy soldiers, downed 2 choppers and destroyed or damaged 7 heavy guns, thus bringing

the total number of enemy casualties to 700 including 400 American.

### DA NANG AND CENTRAL TRUNG BO

On the night of June 26 and 28, Da Nang airbase and Vuoc Mai helicopter park (some kilometres from Da Nang) were the targets of violent bombardments by the P.L.A.F.

The latest news released by Gai Phong Press Agency listed 81 U.S. aircraft destroyed or damaged, 102 G.I.s killed or wounded and many depots burnt. The same source disclosed that 53 choppers had been hit at Nuoc Man on June 26 and 28, and 30 fighter planes at Da Nang airbase on June 28. In Quang Ngai province, in the counterattacks of the P.L.A.F. in the districts of Tu Nghia and Nghia Hanh against 6 battalions of U.S. Brigades 11 and 106 and puppet Regiments 5 and 6, the enemy suffered 77 casualties (including 300 American) and 6 choppers downed.

In Binh Dinh province, a column of South Korean mercenaries was assaulted on July 12 and inflicted heavy casualties among whom the lieutenant-colonel commanding Battalion 1, "Tiger" Division.

### SAIGON AND MEKONG DELTA

DAU THIENG base, 50 km northwest of Saigon, was shelled on the night of July 4 by the P.L.A.F. who controlled the airfield and gun and armoured car parks after a 30 minutes' fierce battle: 200 G.I.s were killed or wounded, 23 aircraft, 25 M-113 amphibious carriers and 7 cannoons destroyed or damaged, 37 casemates blown up. The commanders of Battalion 4, Regiment 22, U.S. Division 25 were killed.

(Continued page 7)

AFTER the fall of the two positions of Long Vay and Huong Hoa in late January and early February 1968, the Americans held only Ta Con, the main base with an airstrip. Ta Con was named by the Americans "Khe Sanh base" as distinct from Huong Hoa or "Khe Sanh town."

Hill "689," located at 3 kilometres west-southwest of Ta Con, formed with the adjacent hills "845," "832," "553" and "471" an arc of fortified strongholds defending "Khe Sanh base." It was defended by a thousand Marines with emplacements made of sand-bags and casemates deep

aircraft showering their bombs on the U.S. positions themselves. Panic-stricken, the survivors jumped out of their emplacements to escape the blazing petrol pools only to be cut down by the P.L.A.F.

Another and last attempt of the Americans to withdraw to Hill "531" was also thwarted. Having correctly anticipated the enemy's plan, the P.L.A.F. laid an ambush on their retreat route, forcing the enemy to withdraw after sustaining heavy losses. The balance-sheet on July 6 was nearly 200 Marines killed or wounded, including 78 victims of American bombs.

The fighting reached its peak

the flames dropped by enemy "gunships," groups of P.L.A.F. supporters succeeded in cutting the barbed wire and defusing the mines, thus making a breach in the enemy defences without his knowing it. Big charges of explosive were placed against the casemates and set off, sending them flying in places without their occupants having the vaguest idea of what was going on. The spearhead groups stormed the resistance pockets and blew up one bunker after another with terrific charges. Taking advantage of the disarray of the Americans who found themselves assailed right in their hide-outs, the P.L.A.F. pressed

### BATTLE ACCOUNT FROM KHE SANH

## CAPTURE OF HILL "689"

underground. Tracks had been built to allow the garrison to receive reinforcements from Ta Con or the neighbouring position on Hills "832" and "553" and vice versa. At the same time, the Americans had worked out detailed firepower plans for the artillery and air force, so that Hill "689" looked perfectly immune to any infantry attack by the P.L.A.F.

However, the attack did come in the final phase of the P.L.A.F. onslaught on the Khe Sanh entrenched camp beginning on July 5. That day, engaging enemy elements that attempted sorties from their positions, the P.L.A.F. put out of action a company of Marines, killing one hundred of them, and bringing down three aircraft.

On the following day, July 6, at 8 a.m., the P.L.A.F. beat back another rally and intercepted enemy reinforcements coming from Hills "845" and "832." During their battles, fighting against great odds, the P.L.A.F. repulsed an enemy column west of Hill "689" and shot down a helicopter. Another attempt of the enemy to push towards the hill was fought at midday with even losses. Some thirty bodies of dead G.I.s were abandoned on the ground and were a few moments later "unpacked" by American

on July 7. Besieged up by two reinforcement companies, the American garrison on Hill "689" staged a two-pronged rally, one in the northwest direction and the other to the southwest. Supported by artillery, the P.L.A.F. intercepted both prongs and put out of action nearly 200 enemy troops just between 6 and 7 a.m.

Another company was later killed on Hill "689" followed by an American counter-attack. After heavy artillery bombardment, the P.L.A.F. infantry launched an assault, engaging the enemy in a furious hand-to-hand combat. Many brilliant exploits were recorded by the Liberation fighters: one of them was credited with killing or wounding as many as 20 enemy soldiers! The enemy again fell back, leaving on the ground the bodies of about 20 of their men. An army of helicopters were sent to the scene, supported by intensive strafing and bombing directed against the supposed positions of the P.L.A.F., in an attempt to recover the dead and wounded. The Liberation fighters gave them a sharp rebuff, shooting down three fighter-bombers and two helicopters.

Then, on the night of July 7, they attacked the American emplacements. In defiance of

up their frontal attacks and completely disrupted the enemy defence. Within less than three-quarters of an hour they seized control of the northwest sector of Hill "689." Fifty two Marines were killed, many radio transmitters and as many machineguns fell into the hands of the assailants. The surviving Marines fell back to the other sectors of the hill and called for massive artillery and air support. From midnight to 4.30 a.m. on July 8, they launched a series of four counter-attacks in a bid to retake the northwest sector of the hill. But all of them were fought off by the infantrymen of the P.L.A.F. who were efficiently supported by artillery and who killed or wounded another hundred enemy troops in the action.

During July 8, despite continuous raids by American aircraft, the P.L.A.F. overran one after another all the remaining positions of the enemy on Hill "689" and brought down a Phantom fighter-bomber. The next day, July 9, at about 10 a.m., the Americans finally broke contact after having lost in five days 600 men put out of action and 10 aircraft and helicopters on this small hill.

(After Gai Phong Press Agency)

P.L.A.F. fighters at Khe Sanh